

ABSTRACT

A hierarchical system of tag associations reduces latency and bandwidth consumption in an RFID or other environment. A method of electronically tracking a items (such as retail goods) stored in a container includes the broad steps of obtaining the electronic identifier for each of the items, computing a checksum or alternative high entropy data structure as a function of each of the electronic identifiers, and transmitting the checksum or data structure to the container for storage at the container. The stored data structure can be compared against a subsequently-calculated checksum to identify any changes to the items stored in the container.